

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A dental tool apparatus for use with a curing lamp in filling a tooth preparation, the apparatus comprising: an elongate handle having a circular, inwardly facing, tapered insertion surface at, ~~and with the elongate handle held in a horizontal attitude, one end of the elongate handle extends upwardly at an angle of between 20 and 45 degrees with respect to the horizontal; the one end of the elongate handle thereof, removably engaging—~~ a light transmissive utility element having an upwardly facing convex top surface terminating at a circular, outwardly facing tapered insertion surface, ~~a cone shaped body extending downwardly from the top insertion surface to terminate as,~~ and a workpiece ~~extending downwardly from the cone shaped body; with the elongate handle held in the horizontal attitude, the workpiece presenting having a vertical-flat contact surface for pushing on a vertical surface of the tooth preparation.~~

Claim 2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cone shaped body has a hyperbolic surface.

Claim 3. (cancelled)

Claim 4. (cancelled)

Claim 5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~vertical-flat~~ contact surface faces toward the elongate handle for distal fillings.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~vertical-flat~~ contact surface faces away from the handle for mesial fillings.

Claim 7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising ~~at least one~~ a marginal ridge guide line at the intersection of the cone shaped body and the workpiece, the guide line oriented horizontally when the elongate handle is held horizontally.

Appl. No. 10812616

Amdt. Date: January 13, 2006

Reply to Office action of: September 13, 2005

Claim 8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~4~~7 wherein the guide line is formed within the utility element by focused laser light leaving no surface deformation.

Claim 9. (new) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the tapered surfaces have a taper angle of approximately 1.5 degrees.